

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed December 28, 2007, in the above-identified application.

New claims 15-18 are added. Therefore, claims 1-6, 9-13 and 15-18 are the claims currently presented for examination.

Claims 1 and 9-13 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. These amendments are fully supported by Applicant's disclosure, see, for example, page 15, lines 11-16, page 19, lines 1-3 and claim 4 supporting the feature regarding the width of the working strip, and page 9, lines 9-10 and page 15, lines 1-2 supporting the feature regarding the material of the working strip. Further, claims 4 and 6 are amended to conform them more closely to U.S. patent practice style.

Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kishine et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,401,583. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 requires a machine for processing a sheet for the production of packagings, the machine comprising a counter-tooling with a substantially cylindrical surface including at least one working strip having a width in a circumferential direction greater than a width of the first tooling, the at least one working strip being made with a flexible material to allow the first tooling to cooperate with the at least one working strip.

Kishine discloses an apparatus for forming arbitrarily positioned lateral perforations in continuous web paper for a form printing machine (Kishine, Abstract) in which edge receptacle portion 23a of the receptacle cylinder receives longitudinal roulette edge 20 of the first rotary support shaft to make perforations in the continuous web paper (Kishine, column 6, lines 37-50, and column 7, lines 36-57; Figs. 3 and 5A).

First, as a general matter, Kishine is silent with respect to a machine for processing sheets or blanks for packagings, as required by claim 1. As discussed, Kishine is directed to a machine for perforating continuous web paper necessary for a form printing machine.

Further, Kishine does not disclose or suggest at least one working strip provided on the counter-tooling made with a flexible material to allow the first tooling to cooperate with the at

least one working strip, as further required by claim 1. Accordingly, Kishine does not disclose or suggest the recitations of claim 1.

Claims 2-4 and 9-13 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Rejection of Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Kishine. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious from Kishine in view of Chesnut et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,934,231. Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Chesnut does not cure the above-cited deficiencies of Kishine as they relate to the above-cited features of claim 1. Therefore, since claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, they are patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

New Claims

New claims 15-18 are added so as more fully to claim patentable aspects of Applicant's invention. New claims 15-18 are fully supported by Applicant's disclosure, see, for example, claims 1-6 and Fig. 4 showing that the working strip of the counter-tooling extends in length parallel to the axis of rotation of the counter-tooling 56.

Claim 15 requires a counter-tooling having at least one working strip thereon extending in length parallel to a rotation axis of the second support shaft.

Kishine discloses that edge receptacle plate 23 is normally offset in the axial direction relative to longitudinal roulette edge 20 and that edge receptacle plates 23 are moved in the axial direction and placed in opposition with longitudinal roulette edges 20 to form longitudinal perforation 8 in continuous web paper 2 over a length corresponding to the length of edge receptacle portion 23a of edge receptacle plate 23 (Kishine, column 7, lines 45-57). Therefore, as shown, for example, at Kishine, Fig. 3 edge receptacle plate 23 is moved along the axial direction and is accordingly shown as necessarily a relatively thin (along the axial direction) structure. Edge receptacle portion 23a is attached to edge receptacle plate 23 and is similarly relatively thin.

Accordingly, Kishine does not disclose or suggest a counter-tooling having at least one working strip extending in length parallel to a rotation axis of the second support shaft, as

required by claim 15. Chesnut is silent with respect to these features. Accordingly, claim 15 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the foregoing reasons.

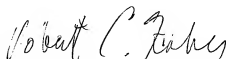
Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and are therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing discussion, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims of the application are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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